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PATENT

Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 07040.0111

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Gianni MANCINI et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1733  
Serial No.: 09/995,638 ) Examiner: Geoffrey L. Knable  
Filed: November 29, 2001 )  
For: METHOD AND PLANT FOR )  
MANUFACTURING A BELT )  
STRUCTURE, A BELT PACKAGE )  
AND A CROWN STRUCTURE OF )  
A GREEN TIRE )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Applicants submit this Response to Restriction Requirement in reply to the Office Action mailed September 29, 2003. In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between Group I, claims 1, 23-28, 36-38, 41, and 42, characterized by the Examiner as drawn to a method to make a belt package or crown structure and Group II, claims 29-35, 39, 40, 43, and 44, characterized by the Examiner as drawn to an apparatus to make a belt package or crown structure. Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group I, claims 1, 23-28, 36-38, 41, and 42, with traverse.

Regarding traverse of the restriction requirement, MPEP § 803 sets forth the two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction, which are (1) the inventions are

independent or distinct as claimed and (2) there is a serious burden on the examiner. Applicants submit that the search and examination of this entire application can be made without serious burden. In fact, the Examiner classified all of the claims in the same class, namely, class 156. As such, MPEP § 803, ¶ 2 requires that the Examiner examine the entire application on the merits.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: October 14, 2003

By: Stephanie S. Conis Gauthier  
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